

Menominees remember 9-11 tragedy

Llona Tucker-May
Menominee Nation News

September 11th, 2002. It was a day to remember, a day to grieve and a day to give thanks for the little things we take for granted every day.

One of the things we took for granted, before September 11, 2001, were the daily duties and courage of local police, firemen, service men and women and other emergency personnel.

Exactly one year after the disasters at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, they were all remembered . . . for their strength, their courage and their commitment to protecting the American people. Today they were honored with ceremonies that took place throughout America, including our very own great nation of the Menominee people.

Banners were hung, stating *Menominee Remembers* and flags waved at half mass, to pay tribute and respect to those who lost their lives and those they left behind.

At Menominee Tribal Offices, flag pins and red and blue tobacco ties were handed out to employees, to commemorate the event.

At approximately 8:35 a.m., prayers were spoken over the P.A. system by Historic Preservation Director, David “Nahwahquaw” Grignon, and Menominee language trainees: Rose Schanandore, Terri Wescott, Dustin Tourtillott and Richard



L. Tucker-May/MNN

In Remembrance of 9-11 Tragedies- Menominee’s finest stand with pride in a community ceremony held at the MIHS gymnasium, to remember those whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001, on the day of the events one year anniversary. The event also recognized those in our own community who give of themselves everyday to ensure the safety of the Menominee People. Inset- A banner stating, “Menominee Remembers” was hung in remembrance of last years terrorist attacks on the Unites States of America.

Oshkeshquoam.

A community ceremony took place at the Menominee Indian High School gymnasium at 9 a.m., with opening remarks given by MIHS principal, Wendell Waukau.

During his opening remarks, Waukau announced that two MIHS students had recently been sworn in for service. Josh Lawe, U.S. Navy and Mitchell Perez, U.S. Marines, both enlisting to join in the battle for America’s freedom. To date that makes 50 graduates of MISD that have enlisted in the armed services.

The Veterans of the Menominee Nation Color Guard, along with representatives of our police, fire, E.M.S. and clergy, entered the gym to rapid beats of a snare drum. Other than the drum, there was complete silence as the men and women representing our people came to the front of the gym.

The *Star Spangled Banner* was sung by the school’s chorus, with the accompaniment of the high school band.

Prayers were given by Rev. James A. Feay, Menominee Ministries and John Teller, the schools Menominee Language teacher.

After the Veterans of the Menominee Nation posted their colors, an eagle feather was presented to Jay Reiter, who recently completed basic training, by Menominee Veterans Elmer Wilber and Louis

Kakwitch, on behalf of the Veterans of the Menominee Nation.

Words of remembrance were given by two volunteers of the Senior Class, Alex Summers and Bill Duquain; Mary Wayka, MISD Board Member; and Lisa Waukau, Chairwoman of the Menominee Tribal Legislature.

Summers spoke of his reaction of shock when he first heard about the events of September 11, while in Ms. Waukau’s Menominee History Class. “This event changed us in many ways,” he stated. He went on to recite the following poem, that he found on the internet by an anonymous author, titled ONE.

*‘As the soot and dirt and ash rained down,
We became one color.
As we carried each other down the stairs of the burning building,
We became one class.
As we lit candles of waiting and hope,
We became one generation.
As the firefighter’s and police officers fought their way into the inferno,
We became one gender.
As we fell to our knees in prayer for strength,
We became one faith.
As we whispered or shouted words of encouragement,
We spoke one language.
As we gave our blood in lines a mile long
We became one body.*

*As we mourned together the great loss,
We became one family.
As we cried tears of grief and loss,
We became one soul.*

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